

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

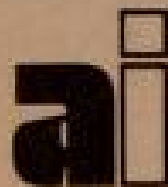
As You Like It



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As You Like It

William Shakespeare



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about the author

William Shakespeare was born on April 23, 1564, in Stratford-on-Avon, England, the third child of John Shakespeare, a well-to-do merchant, and Mary Arden, his wife. Young William probably attended the Stratford grammar school, where he learned English, Greek, and a great deal of Latin.

In 1582 Shakespeare married Anne Hathaway. By 1583 the couple had a daughter, Susanna, and two years later the twins, Hamnet and Judith. Somewhere between 1585 and 1592 Shakespeare went to London, where he became first an actor and then a playwright. His acting company, The King's Men, appeared most often in the Globe theatre, a part of which Shakespeare himself owned.

In all, Shakespeare is believed to have written thirty-seven plays, several nondramatic poems, and a number of sonnets. In 1611 when he left the active life of the theatre, he returned to Stratford and became a country gentleman, living in the second-largest house in town. For five years he lived a quiet life. Then, on April 23, 1616, William Shakespeare died and was buried in Trinity Church in Stratford. From his own time to the present, Shakespeare is considered one of the greatest writers of the English-speaking world.

William Shakespeare

As You Like It



As You Like It

Many years ago, three brothers lived in a rich country house. The oldest brother, Oliver, took care of the house and lands and sent the middle brother, Jaques, to school. But he kept his youngest brother, Orlando, from getting what was rightfully his. One day Orlando spoke with the old servant Adam about the unfair way in which his brother Oliver treated him.



When my father died he told my brother to raise me well. But he doesn't care about me. Even his horses are treated better than I am!

Orlando, a gentle and kind young man, could not understand why Oliver treated him so badly. He began planning to take the money his father had left him so that he could leave home and take care of himself.

POCKET CLASSICS

As Orlando was speaking, Oliver entered the garden.



What are you doing here?

Nothing. I'm not taught to do anything worthwhile!

How dare you say that to me?



At that, Orlando grasped his brother's arms to keep him from striking again.



Do you want to fight with me?

I am a gentleman, the youngest son of Sir Rowland de Boys. I only want to make sure you listen to me!

Our father told you to educate me well. Do so, or give me what is mine by his will.



I will give you part of it. Now let me go, and get out of here!

And you get away too, old man!



Is that the thanks I get for all my years of service to your family?

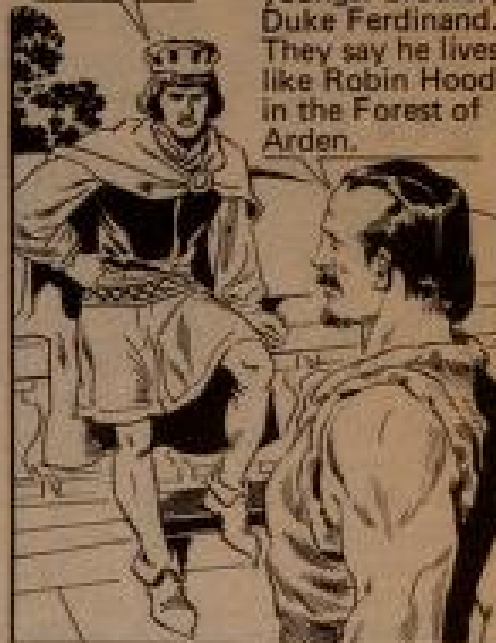
As You Like It

As Orlando and Adam walked away, Oliver called to a nearby servant.



The duke's wrestler, Charles, is waiting to see me. Bring him here.

What is the news at the court?



The old duke has been sent away by his younger brother, Duke Ferdinand. They say he lives like Robin Hood in the Forest of Arden.

Was his daughter Rosalind sent away with him?



Oh, no. She and the new duke's daughter, Celia, are like sisters. He wants to keep them together.

But there is something else on my mind. Your youngest brother, Orlando, wants to wrestle with me tomorrow. I am older and stronger, and I am afraid I might hurt him badly!



POCKET CLASSICS

Yes, I know. But my younger brother hates me. He would like to kill me and take my fortune.



Then I will take care of him once and for all.



When Charles had left, Oliver sat quietly thinking.



I don't know why I hate my brother. He is gentle and kind—but that seems to make me hate him all the more!

The following day at the court of Duke Frederick, his daughter Celia walked with her cousin Rosalind.

Dear Rosalind, I wish you were not so sad!

It is hard for me to be happy when I think of my poor father sent away like that.



I am my father's only child. Someday I will own everything that he has, and then I will give back to you everything my father has taken.



As You Like It

As they were speaking, one of the duke's servants came up to the young ladies.

Are you staying for the wrestling match? The duke's wrestler has already won against three young men. He will soon take on another.

Let us stay, Rosalind.



At that moment, Duke Frederick and several other men drew near.

Hello, girls. Have you come to see the wrestling?

Yes, if we may.



You may be sorry. Charles could kill this next man. Maybe you can get him to give up.

We will try.



POCKET CLASSICS

So Rosalind and Celia spoke to Orlando.

Are you the young man who wants to fight Charles, the wrestler?

Yes, I am. And perhaps I can win against him.



You are too young. He might hurt you badly!

Let us ask the duke to call off this match!



I must fight him. Still, I hope your good wishes will stay with me. I have no one else who cares.

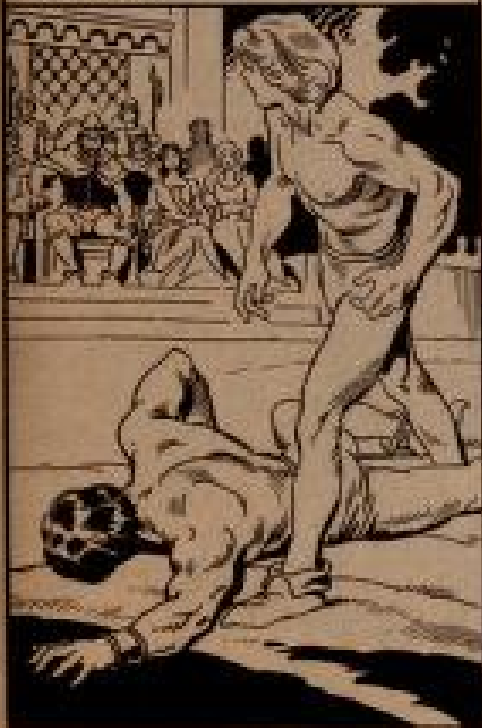
I wish I could make you stronger! But good luck anyway.



As You Like It



To everyone's surprise, Orlando threw Charles so hard that he could not get up again. The match had lasted only a few moments.



No more, no more!
Stop the fight! The
young man has won!



POCKET CLASSICS



Saying this, Duke Frederick turned and left. But Celia and Rosalind stayed to speak to the young man.

Before Orlando could thank them, Celia and Rosalind walked away.



As You Like It

Just then one of the servants walked by. Orlando spoke to him.

Which of those two young ladies is the daughter of Duke Frederick?

The smaller one is his daughter Celia. The other is Rosalind, daughter of the banished duke.



But lately Duke Frederick has grown angry with Rosalind because the people love her. I am sure he will take it out on her somehow.

Thank you for your help.



Meanwhile, Rosalind had also fallen in love with Orlando. Later, when the two girls were alone, Rosalind spoke to Celia about him.

My father loved that young man's father dearly.

It looks to me as if you do too!



POCKET CLASSICS

Just then Duke Frederick stormed into the room.

You must leave here at once, Rosalind! You will be put to death if you stay!

Me, Uncle? What have I done?



I do not trust you! You are a traitor like your father!

He is no traitor, sir, and neither am I!



At this, Celia spoke up.

You must not do this, Father. We are like sisters. I cannot live without her!

You are a fool, Celia! As for you, Rosalind, leave at once!



As You Like It

When the duke had gone, Celia spoke to Rosalind.



You will not leave here alone, Rosalind. I am going with you. Together we will find your father in the Forest of Arden!

Quickly, the girls got ready to leave. Rosalind dressed up as a man so that she and Celia could travel more safely.



What shall I call you?

I will be Ganymede.

And my name will no longer be Celia, but Aliena. Let us take my father's clown with us. He will come if I ask him.



POCKET CLASSICS

While these things were happening, the older duke, Rosalind's father, was living in the Forest of Arden. Several friends were with him.



As You Like It

Meanwhile, Duke Frederick learned that Celia had left with Rosalind.

Someone in my court must have known about this!



Sir, your clown has gone away too! And one of the court ladies thinks that the young wrestler who fought here may be with them as well!

Send for Oliver, the wrestler's brother. I'll make him tell us where they are!



Orlando, of course, was not with the girls. But as he returned home, the servant Adam came out to meet him.

You must leave here at once, young master! Your brother wants to have you killed!



I have a little money, saved from when I worked for your father. Please take it . . . and take me with you, too. I don't want to stay here any longer.

Very well, faithful friend. We will go together.



POCKET CLASSICS

By this time, after a long journey, Rosalind, Celia, and Touchstone the clown arrived at the Forest of Arden.

If I were not dressed like a man, I would cry like a woman. But we must be brave, Aliena.

Home seemed better than this place. But travelers must take what they find.



As they stood talking, two shepherds passed by. Touchstone called to them.

Halloo! Shepherds!

Is there a place nearby where we can find food and a place to sleep?



I have nothing, sir, and my master will not help anyone.



But his land, his cottage, and his sheep are for sale.

That sounds like the very thing for us. Please buy everything, and we will repay you.



Then you can be our shepherd, and we will pay you well.

As You Like It

Meanwhile, in another part of the forest some of the duke's men found Jaques.

We have been looking for you all day. Come, it is time to eat.

I have spent all day hiding from the duke. He likes to tease me.



But I think I'll try to get some sleep right now.

Well, I'll go back to the duke. Our meal is ready.



At that moment Orlando and the servant Adam had just reached the forest.

Dear master, I can go no farther. I am too tired and too hungry.

Then wait here and rest while I go forward and see what I can find in this wild place. I will search for food and a place for you to sleep.



POCKET CLASSICS



Just then Jaques appeared. He was very excited.

I just met a fool in the forest. He was wearing a clown costume and he told me the time from a sundial that he carried!



While Jaques was speaking, Orlando suddenly appeared.

But who is this?



As You Like It



Stop! Eat no more! I need some food!



Then we shall help you. We are more pleased by gentle manners than by force!

I am very sorry, but I am almost dying of hunger.



Sit down then. Welcome to our table.

Thank you. But I must first bring back the tired old man who has followed me so faithfully.



Go, then. We will wait to eat until you both return.

POCKET CLASSICS

You see, men, we are not the only people who have suffered. This world is like a great stage with many different stories taking place upon it.

Yes, we are all like actors. And the life of every man has seven different ages.

First he is a baby.

Then he is a schoolboy.

Next he is a young man who falls in love.

Soon he is a soldier.

Later he is a man who looks very wise and seems to know all the answers.

By this time he has begun to get old, and soon he is an old, old man, helpless again, like a baby.

Just as Jaques finished, Orlando returned with Adam.

Welcome! Set down your faithful old friend and let us all begin to eat.

I thank you most for him.

It's just as well. I am almost too tired to thank you for myself.



Later, as they ate, Orlando spoke with the duke. When they were finished, the duke turned to him.

And, you, old man, are as welcome as your master! Give me your hand in friendship.



And now, young man, if you are truly Sir Rowland's son, you are indeed most welcome. I have always liked your father!



POCKET CLASSICS

Meanwhile, back at Duke Frederick's court, Oliver had arrived at the duke's order.



You say you haven't seen your brother since the day of the wrestling match?

Then find him! Bring Orlando to me, dead or alive, or I will take everything you own away from you.



I will, sir. I never loved my brother!

Then you're worse than I thought, but you'd better find him for me! He may know where my daughter is!



Meanwhile, Orlando and Adam continued to live with the old duke and his men in the forest. During this time Orlando thought only of Rosalind.

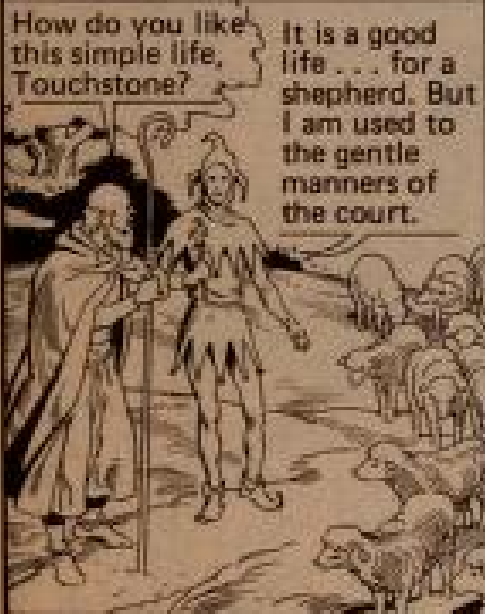


O Rosalind! I shall hang a poem about my love for you from every tree in the forest!

As Orlando ran off, Touchstone, the clown, drew near with the old shepherd.

How do you like this simple life, Touchstone?

It is a good life . . . for a shepherd. But I am used to the gentle manners of the court.



I am only a poor shepherd and I must work hard. But I couldn't ask for a better life!



POCKET CLASSICS



As You Like It



How does it happen that he is here? How does he look? Have you spoken with him? Answer me!



POCKET CLASSICS

Does he know that I
am in the forest? And
dressed like a man?

Quiet! Here he
comes!



*And then
Orlando and
Jaques
walked al-
most to the
spot where
the girls
were stand-
ing, hidden
by a tree.*

I wish you would
stop putting those
love songs all over
this beautiful forest!

You should stop
reading them.
They are not
meant for you!



Is Rosalind the
name of your
true love?

Yes; now leave
me and let me
stay and think
of her!



As You Like It

As Jaques left, Rosalind, still dressed as Ganymede, stepped out from behind a tree.



You there. What time is it?

There's no clock in the forest!

Well, there is someone here who is keeping time like a clock. Every minute he hangs up a new poem to his lady.



I live here with this shepherdess, my sister. If I could find the man who is hanging these poems all over our forest, I would give him some advice.



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As You Like It



POCKET CLASSICS

And so the time passed while Rosalind, dressed as Ganymede, pretended to cure Orlando of his love. Then one day Orlando was late.



Don't say a word, or I'll cry.

Men do not cry, Ganymede.

But why did he promise he would come this morning—and then not come?

It may be that he is not a true lover. Did you know that he lives here with your father and his men?



Yes. I met my father yesterday. He didn't know me, and he asked who my parents were. I answered that my father was as good a man as he. But why talk of fathers? Where is *Orlando*?



But Rosalind was not the only unhappy lover. At that moment Corin, the old shepherd, came up to them with a sad story.

Mistress and master, come with me to see a poor shepherd whose lady does not love him.



Sweet Phebe, please do not push me away. I would die for your love.

I don't want to hurt you, Silvius. I just don't want to be near you.



Rosalind felt sorry for the shepherd and stepped forward.

You foolish shepherd, why do you follow her around like that? She isn't *that* pretty. And you, shepherdess, you should be giving thanks for a good man's love.



POCKET CLASSICS

But Phebe was more interested in "Ganymede" than by his words.



Sweet youth,
I would rather
hear you scold
me than hear
this shepherd's
words of love!

Dear lady, don't start falling in love with me. I don't like you at all! Come, sister.



So Ganymede and Aliena left. But Phebe did not intend to give up.



Silvius, since
you speak of
love so well, I
will use you to
help me now.

Then Phebe wrote a letter of love to Ganymede.



Take this to that
rude young man.
I'm telling him
what bad manners
he has!

As You Like It



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As You Like It

But Rosalind's love for Orlando would not allow her to stay angry.

But now that you're here, my anger is fading away and I am in a holiday mood. Ask me whatever you like!



Then love me, Rosalind.

I will, every day.



And will you marry me?

Yes, I will.



Orlando wanted to play their game through to the end.

Aliena, marry us.

I don't know the words.



You begin with, "Will you, Orlando, take Rosalind for your wife?"

POCKET CLASSICS



But the pretend marriage was not enough for Rosalind. She wanted to keep Orlando near her forever.



If you come one minute late, I will say you are not worthy of the lady you call Rosalind!



As You Like It

When Orlando had left, Celia spoke roughly to Rosalind.

You have let this game go too far!

Oh, no, cousin! If you only knew how much I love him!



I cannot bear to be out of his sight! I'll go and find a tree to sit under until he returns.



But two hours passed and Orlando did not return.

It is after two o'clock! Where could he be?

Maybe he went to take a nap after dinner.



POCKET CLASSICS



Later Silvius came by to see Ganymede.

Fair youth, my gentle Phebe asked me to bring you this letter.



She calls me proud and rude and says she could never love me! Did you write this?

I don't know anything about it. Phebe wrote it.



Poor shepherd, you have been tricked! Phebe really sent you to carry a love letter to me!

Oh, you poor shepherd!

Go back and tell Phebe that if she loves me, I order her to love you!

As You Like It

When Silvius had gone, more time passed, and still Orlando did not appear. But his brother Oliver came by. Rosalind and Celia, of course, did not know who he was.

Good morning. I seek a young man and his sister who live near here.

You have found them.



Orlando asked me to bring this bloody handkerchief to the boy he calls Rosalind.



I must tell you about myself and why I have brought this to you!



"On his way here, Orlando saw a ragged man sleeping under a tree. A snake lay coiled close to his neck, ready to strike."



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"Though he saw that this man was his evil brother, Orlando drove away the snake to save his brother's life!"



"Just then a lioness attacked, and Orlando drove her off with his bare hands. His arm was clawed and he lost some blood, but he will soon be all right again."



"Orlando took me, his evil brother, to the duke, who welcomed me and gave me fresh clothing. Then Orlando sent me to tell you the story. He wanted you to forgive him for being late."

Yes, I am Orlando's older brother Oliver who once mistreated him. But now I am a changed man.



As You Like It



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Not long afterward, Oliver shared a secret with his brother.

Can it be that you are so much in love already?

It's true. I love Aliena.



I am going to give you our father's house and lands. I will marry Aliena and live here as a shepherd.



Just then Rosalind came by, still dressed as Ganymede.

Hello, my friends. I hear you were hurt by a lion, Orlando.

My greater hurt was done by a lady.



Oh, yes, your
Rosalind. And
did your brother
tell you
of my pretend-
ed faint?



He told me
even better
things than
that. Oliver
loves Alie-
na.

I know. Your brother and
my sister no sooner met
but they fell in love.



They shall be
married tomor-
row. At least my
brother will be
happy. I wish I
could be!



POCKET CLASSICS

Then tomorrow I cannot play Rosalind for you?

No, I can't pretend any longer.



Hearing this, Rosalind suddenly got another idea.

Look, when I was very young, I worked with a good magician and I know his secrets. Since you are so in love with Rosalind, you will marry her at the same time your brother marries Aliena!



Do you mean it?
That's wonderful!

Just then Silvius and Phebe arrived.

Young man, you were wrong to show Silvius the love letter that I wrote to you!

I care not what you think. You have your faithful shepherd. You should love him, not me!



As You Like It

Look upon him,
love him.

Silvius, tell this
young man what
it feels like to
be in love.

It is to be all made up
of sighs and tears. This
is what I feel for Phoebe.



And I for
Ganymede.

And I for
Rosalind.

And I for
no woman!



POCKET CLASSICS



As You Like It

It is to be made up of
dreams and of wishes.
And this is the way I
feel about Phebe.



And this is
the way I
feel about
Ganymede.

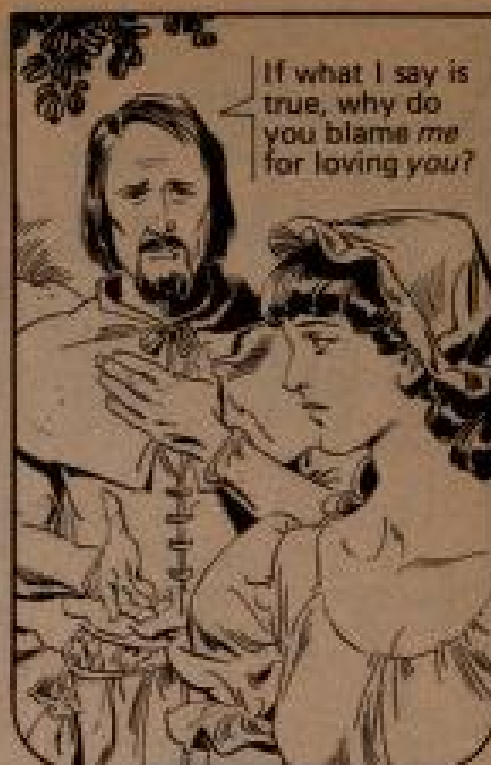
And this is
the way I
feel about
Rosalind.



And I don't feel that way
about *any* woman!



POCKET CLASSICS



As You Like It



POCKET CLASSICS

And if what you love is what makes you happy, I will make you happy. *You* will be married tomorrow.



And if you, Silvius, and you, Orlando, are both as much in love as you say, you will not fail to meet me here tomorrow.



If I am alive I will not fail to be here!

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Nor II



As You Like It

Overjoyed, Orlando went straight to the duke and told him what Ganymede had said.

Do you believe that he can do all that he promised?

Sometimes I do and sometimes I don't.



Later, Ganymede himself came by.

Do you agree that if I bring your daughter Rosalind here, you will give her in marriage to Orlando?



Indeed I will, though I wish I had my lands to give with her!



POCKET CLASSICS





Rosalind went first to the duke.



Then she went to Orlando.



POCKET CLASSICS



As You Like It



And so, just as Ganymede had promised, all the couples were married in the Forest of Arden.



POCKET CLASSICS

And then, into this happy group more good news was brought by young Jaques, the brother of Oliver and Orlando. He spoke to the duke.

Sir, some time ago Duke Frederick started out for the Forest of Arden with armed men. He wanted to capture or kill you. But on the way he met a holy man who spoke to him about his evil ways.



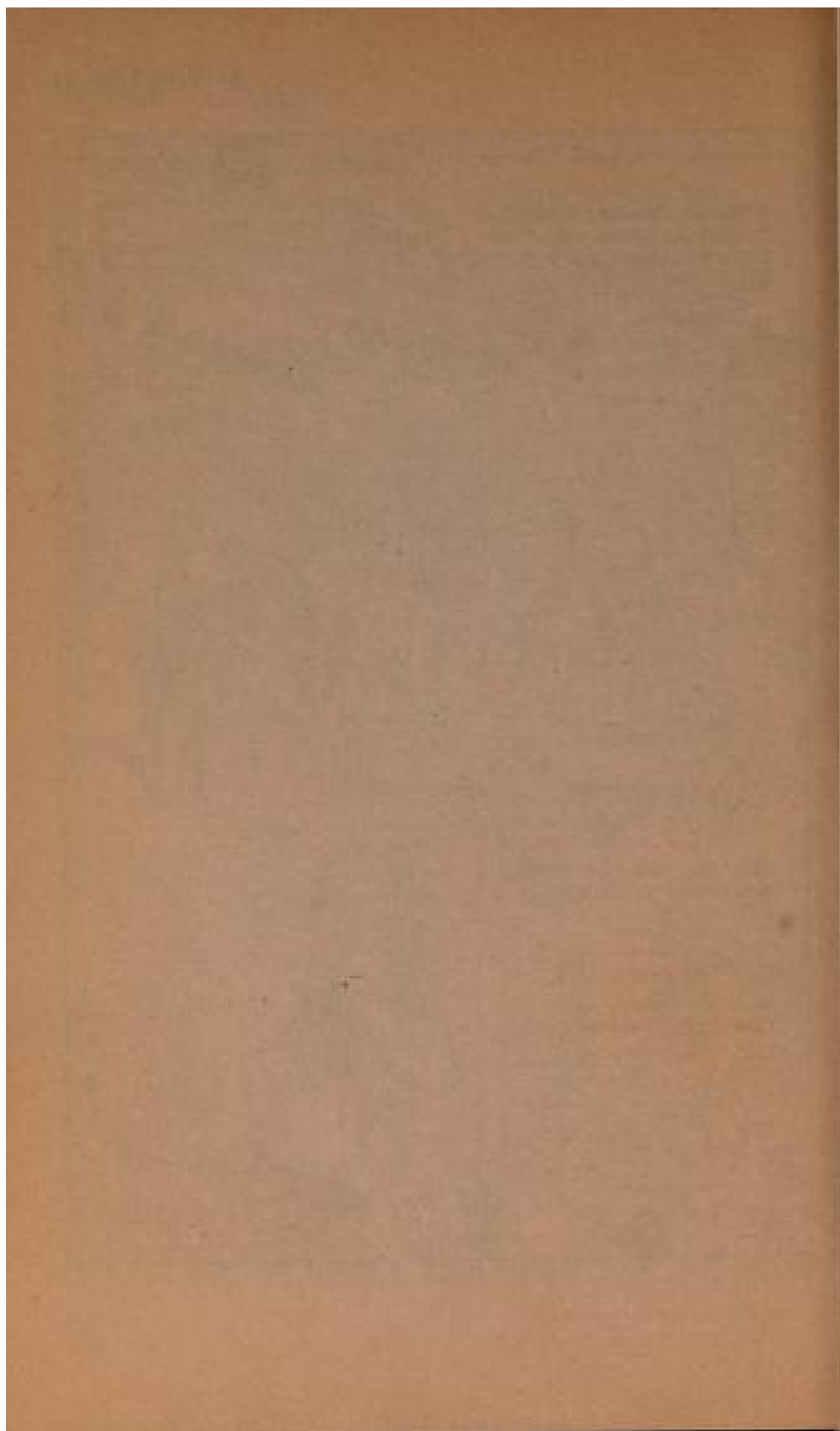
Now Duke Frederick wants to change his life. He has decided to leave this world for a life of prayer, and he has restored to you all your lands.

Welcome! You bring good news and joy to the wedding of your brothers!



And now, before we leave
this happy forest, let us
enjoy the evening together.
Let no one be sad!





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SHAKESPEARE

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